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French Garde-Meuble

Beauvais Tapestries  
after Francis Casanova

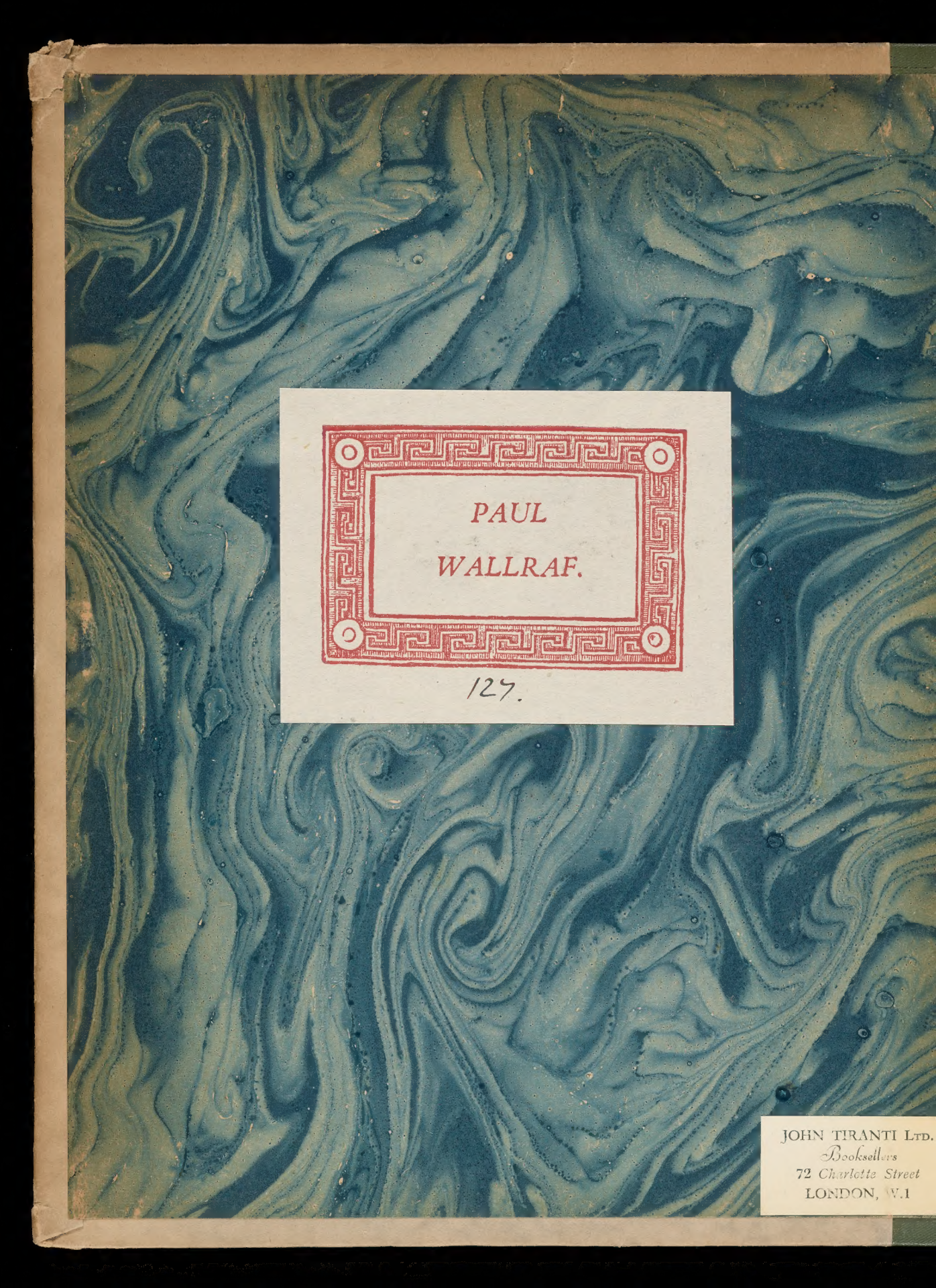
by Ernest Dumonthier

Director of the French Garde-Meuble

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BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES  
after the Cartoons of  
FRANCIS CASANOVA

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DOCUMENTS D'ART

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French Garde-Meuble

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BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES

after the Cartoons of

FRANCIS CASANOVA

1727-1805

by

Ernest DUMONTHIER

Director of the French Garde-Meuble



1780

PARIS

ALBERT MORANCÉ, PUBLISHER

Librairie Centrale d'Art et d'Architecture



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# BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES

after the Cartoons of

## FRANCIS CASANOVA

*From the French of Mr. E. DUMONTHIER*

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### CASANOVA'S LIFE



FRANCIS CASANOVA was born in London of Italian parents, in 1727. He had two brothers. Of these, the elder, known as Casanova de Seingalt, was the famous Venetian adventurer whose freaks attracted considerable attention throughout the eighteenth century, and who came in contact with such great personages as Frederick II, Catherine II, King Stanislas, Pope Benedict XIV, Voltaire, Rousseau, the Duke de Choiseul, and Madame de Pompadour. The younger, Giovanni Battista, studied painting under Raphael Mengs and achieved fame in Germany.

At the age of six, Francis was brought to Italy by his parents, and there he soon showed his taste for painting. He first studied under Guardi, and then under Simonini da Parma, who, a painter of battles, considerably influenced his pupil's talent. Later, when Francis came to Paris, he worked under Charles Parrocel, till he went to Dresden, where during four years he studied painting, particularly the works of the Dutch master Wouwermans. Subsequently, on his return to Paris, he exhibited in 1761 the painting of a battle scene that proved a great success. Another picture, Cavalry Charge, caused him to be elected a member of the Academy in 1763, when but thirty six years of age.

His paintings then became much in vogue, and he quickly made a fortune. However, his own desire for a luxurious and extravagant life ruined him, and his two marriages, one in 1762 and the other in 1773, were, by reason



of his wives' prodigal habits, only another aid to hasten his downfall. He was compelled to leave Paris. The French Revolution prevented his return, and he died at Brühl, near Vienna, in 1805, at the age of seventy eight.

## CASANOVA'S WORK

The cartoons of Casanova may, for practical purposes, be divided thus: Military Scenes, and Country Scenes.

Casanova worked for the Factory of Beauvais from 1770 down to 1787. He commenced with the eight wall hangings entitled: *Country Enjoyments*, and respectively called: Hunting Meeting, — Fishing with a net, — Duck Fowling, — The Horsepond, — The Meal, — The Sitting Falconer, — The Laundress, — The Cart of Fish.

The Tapestries of seats to match these hangings were entitled:

### *I. — Tapestries of Screens*

#### FRONT

Red Horseman on a white Horse.  
Marshal.  
Mule on a Bridge.  
Fallen Mule.  
Woman milking a Goat.  
Sleeping Shepherd.  
Woman riding an Ass.  
Man holding a burden in his arms.

#### BACK

Nosegays on a yellow back-ground.

### *II. — Tapestries of Chairs und Arm-Chairs*

#### SEAT

Fallen Mule.  
Marshal.  
Horseman, Woman and Child.  
Laundress, and a Man riding an Ass.  
White Cow.  
Man with a package, and a white Cow.  
Shepherd looking at sheep in the water.  
Sleeping Shepherd.

#### BACK

Woman sitting, and a white Cow.  
Woman, Goat and Basket.  
Mule on a Bridge.  
Man mending bales, and a black Horse.  
Ass with baskets.  
Woman milking a Goat.  
Red Man on a white Horse.  
Woman riding an Ass.



### III. — Tpaestries of Sofas

SEAT	BACK
Woman leading a Flock.	Man on Horseback.
Boat, and a Man riding a donkey.	Ass carrying baskets of eggs.

### IV. — Tapestries of Easy-Chairs

SEAT	BACK
Man riding an Ass.	Horseman and a Dog.
Woman on horseback, and a white Cow.	Woman on horseback, and a white Cow.

In 1777, Francis Casanova produced with success the cartoons of a second set of hangings, called : *The Gipsies*. The six scenes are : On the march, — The stealing of the Trunk, — The Fountain, — The sharing of the Trunk, — The Meal, — The Sleeper.

The next year, Francis Casanova executed for Mr. Berthier de Sauvigny the models of four hangings entitled : *Education*, or the *Four Ages*, and likewise the models of twelve tapestries for chairs, with the following as subjects :

### Tapestries of Chairs

SEAT	BACK
Woman on an Ass.	Woman angling, and a Negro.
Woman crowned by Love.	Woman making nets, and a boy playing a drum.
The Drinker, or the Collation.	Woman sitting and holding her dog, and Man sitting and clad in red suit.
Hunter kneeling.	Woman asleep.
The swing.	Man offering a Nosegay.
The Flower-girl.	Nurse walking with a Child.
Bird-nesting.	Woman reading and her Child.
Woman holding a letter.	The Boy and his Ass.
Woman drawing water out of a Fountain.	Woman, and a Man clad in blue.
Shepherd sitting.	Woman asleep.
Woman reading.	The Lamb.
Woman reading.	Milkmaid, and a Child drinking milk.

Ten years later, Beauvais began to weave new hangings from Casanova's cartoons on *Military Convoys*, together with a great many tapestries for chairs. The six hangings are : The Regiment on march, — The Sutler's Tent, — The Harbour, — The Battle. — The Shock, — The Two Horsemen.



Unfortunately, the manufacture of the tapestries for seats corresponding to these hangings stopped short in 1793; since one of the first consequences of the French Revolution was to deprive the Factories of Beauvais and Gobelins of their richest customers.

Under the first Consul, however, the work at these factories was once more resumed, and Bonaparte encouraged the reproduction of tapestries illustrating the martial exploits and courage of the French. It is partly owing to this fact that we possess such a large number of Beauvais tapestries after the Cartoons of Casanova.





# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## PLATES

			H.	L.
1	<i>French Garde-Meuble.</i>	Screen. — Military Scene.	2' 10"	2'
2	—	Screen. — Military Scene.	2' 1"	1' 8"
3	—	Screen. — Military Scene.	2' 10"	2'
4	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 10"	1' 8"
5	<i>Louvre Museum.</i>	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 11"	1' 9"
6	—	Seat of an Arm-chair. — A Landscape.	1' 9"	1' 9"
7	<i>Palace of Compiègne.</i>	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 8"	1' 4"
8	—	Seat of an Arm-chair. — A Landscape.	1' 8"	1' 9"
9	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 8"	1' 5"
10	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 7"	1' 5"
11	—	Seat of an Arm-chair. — A Landscape.	1' 9"	1' 8"
12	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 8"	1' 4"
13	—	Seat of an Arm-chair. — A Landscape.	1' 8"	1' 8" 1/4.
14	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 8"	1' 4"
15	—	Seat of an Arm-chair. — A Landscape.	1' 9"	1' 8"
16	—	Back of a small Sofa. — Country Scene.	1' 7"	2' 7"
17	—	Seat of a small Sofa. — A Landscape.	1' 8"	2' 11"
18	—	Back of a small Sofa. — Country Scene.	1' 7"	2' 7"
19	—	Seat of a small Sofa. — A Landscape.	1' 8"	2' 10"
20	—	Back of a small Sofa. — Country Scene.	1' 6"	2' 7"
21	—	Back of a small Sofa. — Country Scene.	1' 6"	2' 6"
22	—	Back of a small Sofa. — Military Scene.	1' 7"	2' 7"
23	—	Back of a small Sofa. — Military Scene.	1' 7"	2' 7"
24	—	Back of a Sofa. — Military Scene.	1' 5"	6' 11"
25	—	Seat of a Sofa. — Country Scene.	1' 6"	7'
26	<i>Palace of Elysée.</i>	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 6"	1' 3"
27	—	Seat of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 10"	1' 8"
28	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 6"	1' 3"
29	—	Seat of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 8"	1' 10"
30	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 6"	1' 3"
31	—	Seat of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 8"	1' 10"
32	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 1"	1' 3"
33	—	Seat of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 10"	1' 8"
34	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 6"	1' 3"
35	—	Seat of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 10"	1' 10"
36	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Country Scene.	1' 6"	1' 3"
37	—	Backs of Chairs. — Country Scenes.	0' 10"	0' 8"

			H.	L.
38	<i>Palace of Elysée.</i>	Backs of Chairs. — Country Scenes.	0' 10"	0' 8"
39	—	Screen. — Military Scene.	2' 8"	1' 10"
40	—	Small wall Hanging. — Hunting Scene.	8' 4"	3' 10"
41	—	Small wall Hanging. — Hunting Scene.	6' 2"	3' 11"
42	—	Back of a Sofa. — Country Scene.	1' 6"	4' 8"
43	—	Seat of a Sofa. — Country Scene.	1' 8"	5' 10"
44	—	Back of a Sofa. — Country Scene.	1' 6"	5' 4"
45	—	Seat of a Sofa. — Country Scene.	1' 8"	5' 10"
46 47	—	Small wall Hanging. — Country Scene.	10' 4"	7' 5"
48 49	—	Small wall Hanging. — Military Scene.	10' 4"	7' 5"
50	<i>Palace of Fontainebleau</i>	Back of an Arm-chair. — Military Scene.	1' 5"	1' 2"
51	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Military Scene.	1' 5"	1' 2"
52	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Military Scene.	1' 4"	1' 2"
53	—	Back of an Arm-chair. — Military Scene.	1' 4"	1' 2"
54	—	Backs of Arm-chairs. — Landscapes.	1' 4"	1' 5"
55	—	Back of a Sofa. — Military Scene.	1' 4"	5' 7"
56	—	Seat of a Sofa. — Country Scene.	1' 6"	5' 6"

N. B. — *The measurements are in feet and inches and relate only to the tapestries without their borderings.*







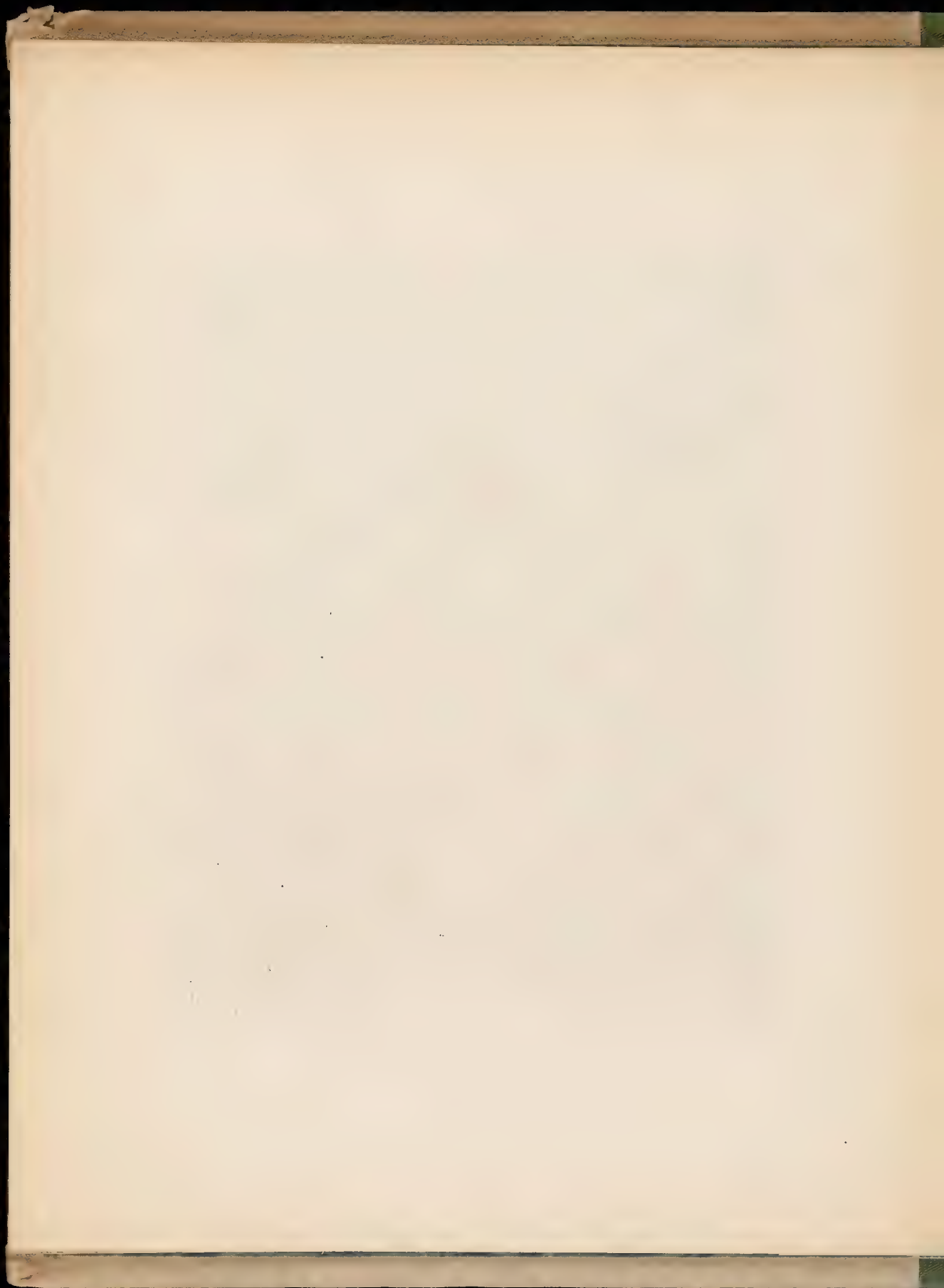




BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Screen. (Military Scene).  
French Garde Meuble.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Screen. (Military Scene).  
French Garde Meuble.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Screen. (Military Scene).  
French Garde Meuble.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Back of an Arm-Chair. (Country Scene).  
French Garde Meuble.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Back of an Arm-chair. (Country Scene).  
The Louvre Museum.



BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Seat of an Arm-chair. (A Landscape).  
The Louvre Museum.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Back of an Arm-chair. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Compiègne.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Seat of an Arm-chair. (A Landscape).  
Palace of Compiègne.



BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Back of an Arm-chair. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Compiègne.





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Back of an Arm-chair. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Compiègne.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Seat of an Arm-chair. (A Landscape).  
Palace of Compiègne.



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Back of an Arm-chair. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Compiègne.





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Seat of an Arm-chair. (A Landscape).  
Palace of Compiègne.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Back of an Arm-chair. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Compiègne.



BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Seat of an Arm-chair. (A Landscape).  
Palace of Compiègne.







Back of a Small Sofa. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Compiègne.







Seat of a Small Sofa. (A Landscape).  
Palace of Compiègne.





Back of a Small Sofa. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Compiègne.







Seat of a Small Sofa. (A Landscape).  
Palace of Compiègne.







Back of a Small Sofa. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Compiègne.





Back of a Small Sofa, (Country Scene).

Palace of Compiègne.







Back of a Small Sofa. (Military Scene).  
Palace of Compiègne.







Back of a Small Sofa. (Military Scene).  
Palace of Compiègne.









Back and Seat of a Sofa. (M)  
Palace of



ilitary Scene and a Landscape).  
Compiègne.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Back of an Arm-chair. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Elysée.



BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Seat of an Arm-chair. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Elysée.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Back of an Arm-chair. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Elysée.





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Back of an Arm-chair. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Elysée.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Backs of Chairs. (Country Scenes).  
Palace of Elysée.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Backs of Chairs. (Country Scenes).  
Palace of Elysée.



BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Screen. (Military Scene).  
Palace of Elysée.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Small Wall Hanging. (Country Scene).  
Palace of Élysée.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Small Wall Hanging. (Hunting Scene).  
Palace of Elysée.





























BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.







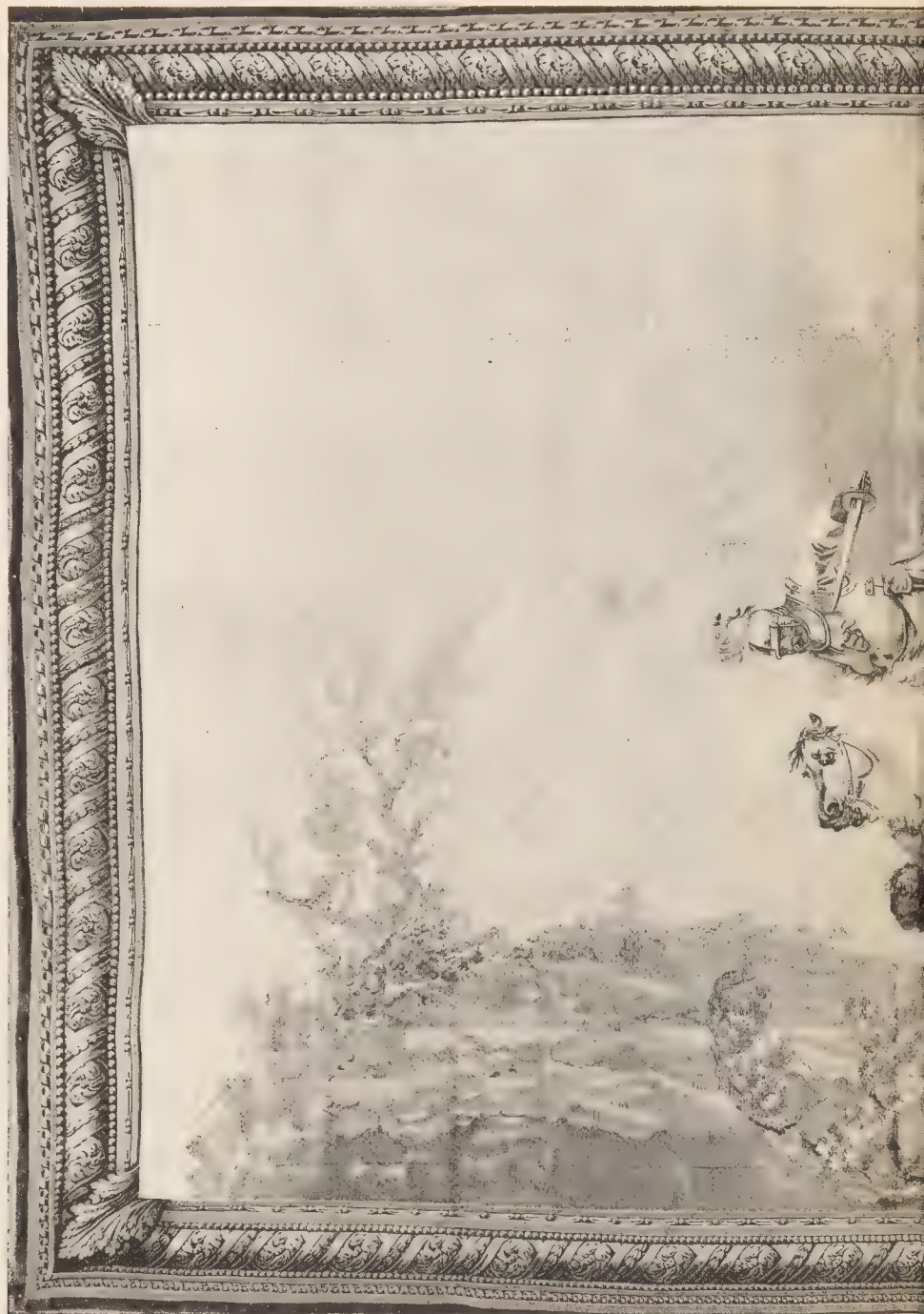
Small Wall Hanging, (Country Scene).  
Palace of Élysée.

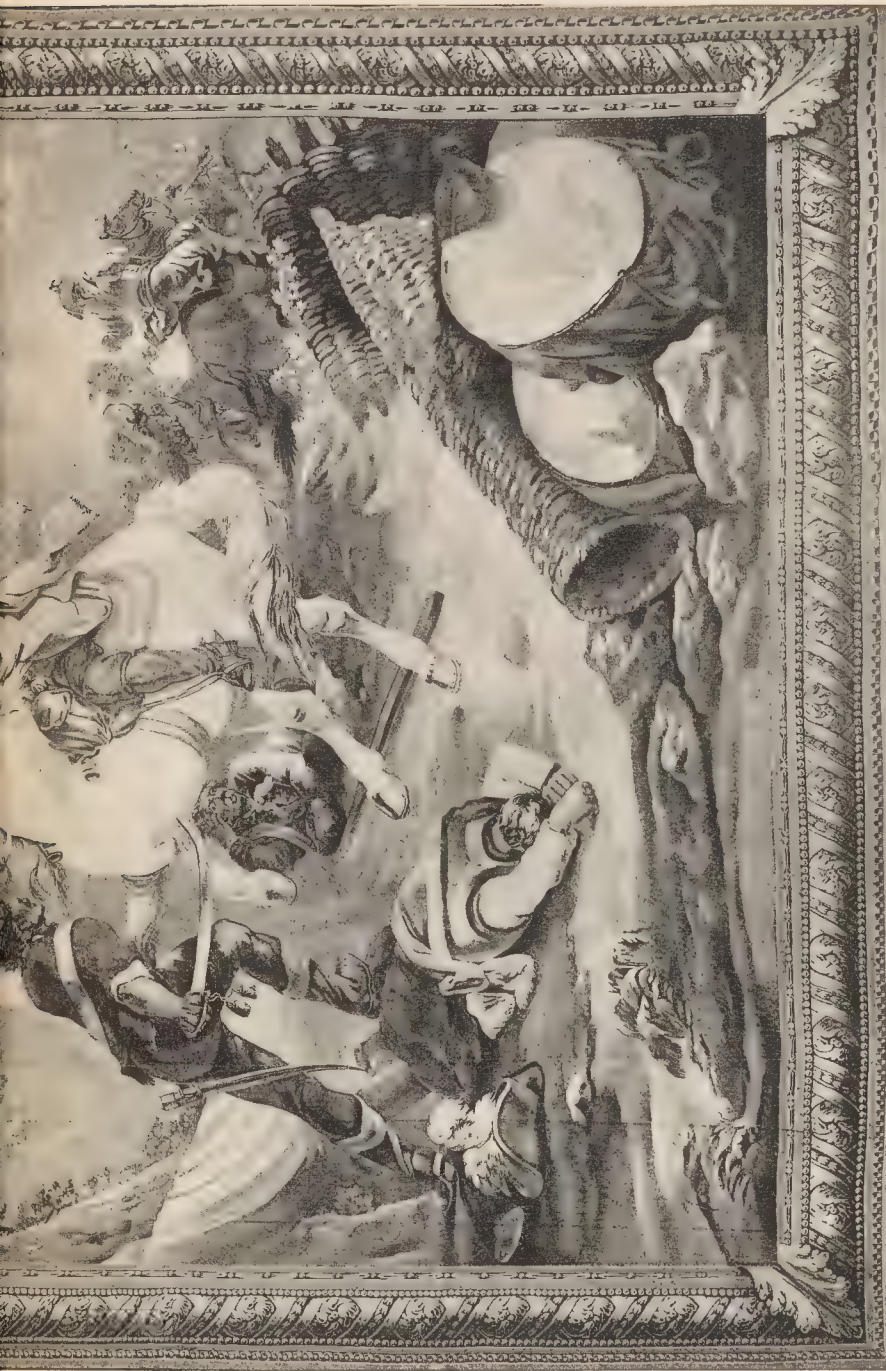






BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.





Small Wall Hanging. (Military Scene).  
Palace of Élysée.





BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Back of an Arm-chair. (Military Scene).  
Palace of Fontainebleau.



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Palace of Fontainebleau.



BEAUVAIS TAPESTRIES from the CARTOONS of F. CASANOVA.



Seats of Chairs. (Landscapes).  
Palace of Fontainebleau.

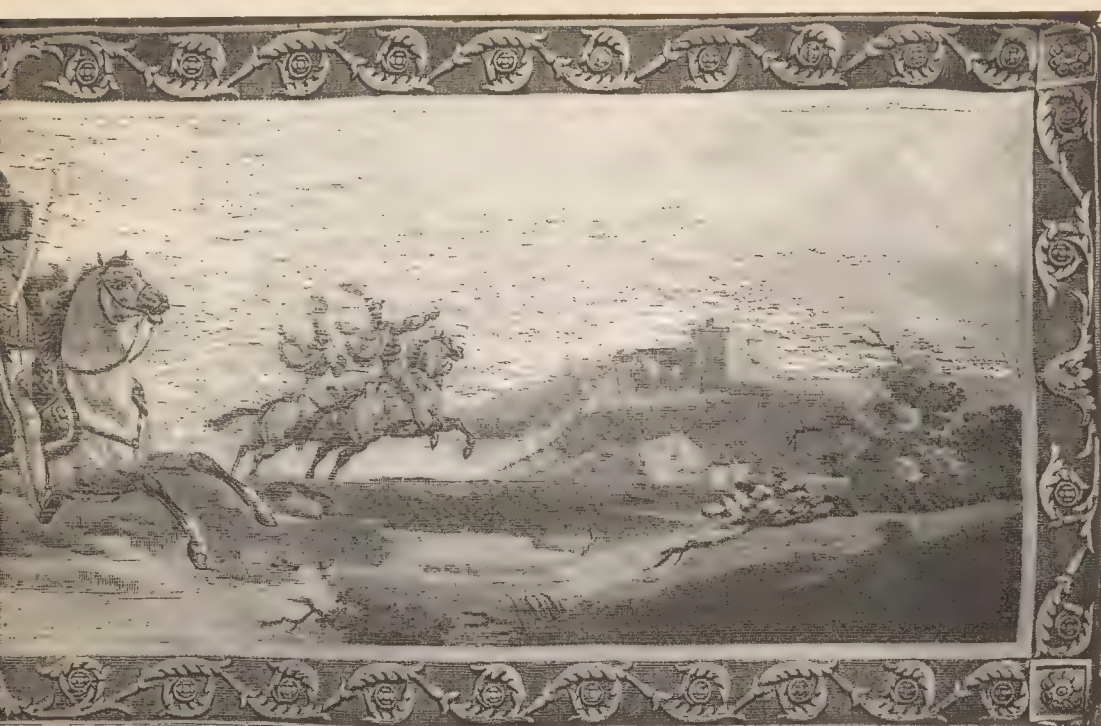






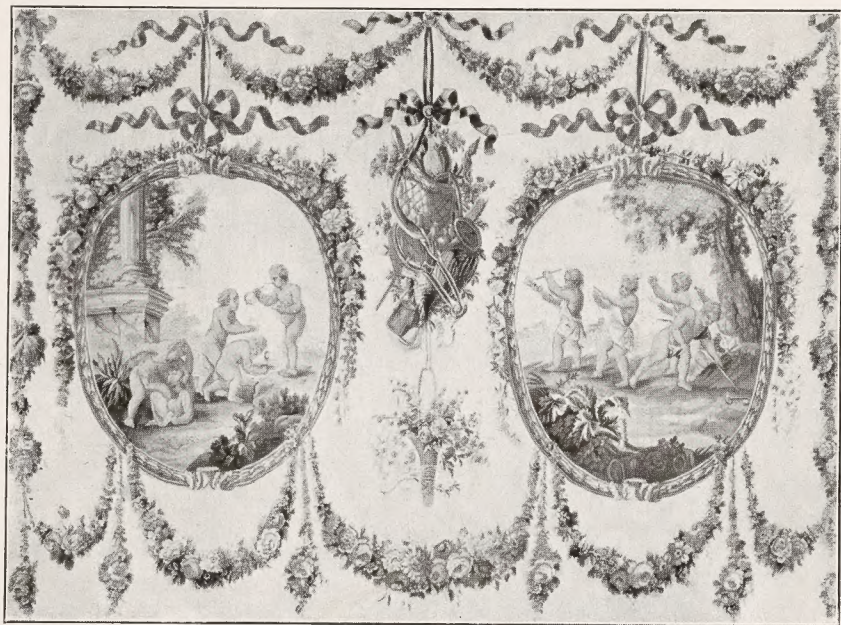












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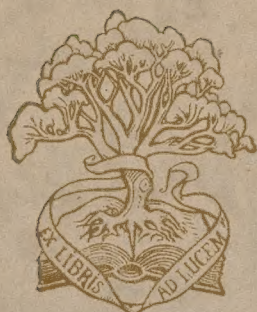


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